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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter of Mr. Ri Chan Bok, representative of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army, addressed to Mr. Ray L. Smith, Major General of the United States Marine Corps, dated 4 July 1995.

I would be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 4 July 1995 from Mr. Ri Chan Bok, representative of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army, addressed to Mr. Ray L. Smith, Major General of the United States Marine Corps

I send this letter in connection with the fact that the recent working-level contact held at Panmunjom for arranging General Officer-level talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America has broken down.

The establishment of a new peace mechanism is an urgent pressing task to be solved between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States both in view of the present state of the armistice system, which has been paralysed by the unilateral action of the United States side, and in the light of the present situation created on the Korean peninsula.

Neither the Armistice Agreement, a scrap of paper, nor the dilapidated armistice mechanism can prevent even a trifling conflict in the demilitarized military zone (DMZ), to say nothing of a war. This is the reality that nobody can deny.

We believe that your side also recognized this fact when responding to our proposal for holding the General Officer-level talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States militaries.

As you know, at the end of last December, the representatives of the Governments and militaries of both countries, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States held negotiations to resolve the United States Army helicopter incident. The government representatives of both countries, in particular, reached an agreement to keep contact between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States militaries in the future and made their understanding public.

This notwithstanding, at the contact of 22 June last, your side held fast to an unjustifiable assertion that the representatives of the "United Nations Command" member countries should accompany you in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States military talks, even though they have nothing to do with the talks. This is going against your side's own words for the talks.

It throws doubt on whether your side really wants to hold the General Officer-level talks between the militaries of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States.

That is why, at the last working-level contact, our representative made it clear that our side would have no alternative but to take the necessary measures concerning the status of the DMZ and the Armistice Agreement. If the United States side takes a talk-denying attitude in the long run, its action of breaking off the working-level contact cannot be construed other than as meaning that it has no interest in the establishment of an institutional mechanism to

prevent incidents and conflicts that might happen on the Korean peninsula and has no intention of practically solving the issue of ensuring peace and security in this region.

It is our view that, if both sides, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, fail to establish as soon as possible the institutional mechanism to prevent armed conflict on the Korean peninsula, unexpected incidents are certain to occur.

Now fortified positions have been built and a large quantity of heavy and automatic weapons introduced into the southern part of the DMZ, where military provocations against our side are being committed almost every day.

What is worse, of late, the South side has illegally occupied the sacred territory of our Republic by stealthily moving military demarcation line marker Nos. 0781, 0782 and 0783 more than 50 metres into our area.

This is not only an intentional and preplanned territorial encroachment but also an intolerable hostile act.

As you are well aware, we do not tolerate anyone encroaching on the territory of our side even an inch.

As was made clear in the various rounds of working-level contacts, it is our position that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States military talks must be held to prevent the recurrence of such misfortunes as last year's United States Army helicopter incident.

Therefore, our side presented flexible and broad-minded compromise proposals fully considering your insistence, even though it was unreasonable.

There is no change in our position regarding the need to resolve matters through dialogue and negotiation.

However, if the United States side opposes our proposal to the last, we have no choice but to choose the other way.

The further development of the situation entirely depends on the attitude of the United States side. If the United States side is really interested in peace on the Korean Peninsula, it should withdraw its unreasonable allegation and convince us of its position at the negotiation table in Panmunjom.

RI Chan Bok
Lieutenant General
Representative
Panmunjom mission, Korean People's Army